

RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP

the voice of rural wireless telecommunications providers

*1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20005*

MEMORANDUM

To: Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission

From: Caressa D. Bennet, Regulatory Counsel

Date: April 6, 2000

Re: *Ex Parte* Presentation - April 5, 2000

In re Advanced Telecommunications Capability to all Americans
CC Docket No. 98-146

In re Promoting Subscribership in Unserved, and Underserved Areas
CC Docket No. 96-45

In re Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

In re Rules and Policies for Local Multipoint Distribution Service
CC 92-297

In re Nextel Communications, Inc. Petition
DA-00191

On April 5, 2000, Caressa D. Bennet, Gregory W. Whiteaker, and Kenneth C. Johnson of Bennet & Bennet, PLLC, representing the Rural Telecommunications Group (RTG), participated in a meeting with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth and his Legal Advisor, Mr. Bryan Tramont, and Mr. Thomas Sugrue, Ms. Janet Sievert, Mr. Steve Weingarten, and Mr. Mark Bollinger of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau concerning issues relating to the above proceedings. Also participating in the meeting were RTG members: Colorado Valley Telephone Cooperative, represented by Mark Rutherford, Assistant General Manager; Valley Telephone Company, represented by Patrick Munroe; Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc., represented by Delbert Wilson, Chief Executive Officer; Margaretville Telephone Company, represented by Larry Roadman; Sully Buttes Telephone Cooperative, represented by Randy Houdek; ENMR Telephone Cooperative, represented by Steven Metts; Baca Valley Telephone Company, Inc., represented by Paul Briesch; Golden West Telecommunications Coop., represented by George Strandell; Panhandle Telecommunications, represented by Ron Strecker; and Mid Tex Cellular, Ltd.,

represented by Toney Prather.

The representatives of RTG, consistent with previous RTG positions, expressed their concerns regarding served and unserved rural areas with regards to both wireline and wireless technology. RTG reflected upon the negative effects of universal service portability and obstacles to the provision of telecommunications service in Indian reservations.

RTG noted the lack of available spectrum in rural areas, encouraged smaller license areas, and promoted regulatory incentives for the partitioning and disaggregation of spectrum to rural regions. RTG encouraged the FCC to keep the designated entity provisions in the upcoming reauction of PCS spectrum in the C and F blocks and pleaded for the sunset of the LMDS in-region eligibility restrictions.

This memorandum is being submitted electronically pursuant to Sections 1.49(f) and 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's rules.

cc: Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth
Bryan Tramont
Thomas Sugrue
Janet Sievert
Steve Weingarten
Mark Bollinger

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